

DW 99-051

**BEDFORD WASTE SERVICES CORPORATION**

**Petition for General Rate Increase**

**Order Approving Procedural Schedule**

**O R D E R   N O.   23,267**

**July 27, 1999**

On June 7, 1999, Bedford Waste Service Corporation (Bedford or the Petitioner), a New Hampshire public utility filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a petition for a 34% permanent rate which would increase Bedford's annual revenue by \$12,727.00 or \$163.00 per customer, per year.

By Order No. 23,240, (June 21, 1999) the Commission suspended the proposed rates and scheduled a prehearing conference for July 8, 1999. A duly noticed prehearing conference was therefore held on July 8, 1999. The Commission received requests for intervention from Mr. Edward J. Comiskey, III, Mr. William Wynn on behalf of the Bedford Homeowners Association and Mr. Philip Taub. There were no objections to the requests for intervention. Staff and the Petitioner summarized issues to be investigated in the proceeding. Staff requested permission at the prehearing conference to meet with representatives of Bedford and the Intervenors following the conference to prepare a proposed procedural schedule and submit in writing a schedule governing the remainder of the investigation. On July 22, 1999, the staff submitted the following proposed schedule:

Data Requests by Staff and Intervenors	July 29, 1999
Company Data Responses	August 5, 1999
Testimony by Staff and Intervenors	August 19, 1999
Data Requests on above Testimony	August 26, 1999
Responses to Data Requests	Sept. 2, 1999
Settlement Conference	Sept. 9, 1999
Filing of Settlement Agreement	Sept. 16, 1999
Hearing on the Merits	Sept. 23, 1999

Also at the prehearing conference, in accordance with the Order of Notice, Bedford, Staff and Intervenors stated their positions with regard to the filing for the record. The Petitioner indicated that Bedford is earning significantly less than a reasonable rate of return. Current rates have been in effect since 1995. Expenses have increased significantly over this period. The Intervenors expressed concern relative to the amount of the rate increase. Also, the Intervenors had concerns related to the level of contributions in aid of construction. Staff's position was that the filing raised issues relative to the magnitude of the rate increase, cost of capital and pro formed operating and maintenance expenses.

We find the proposed procedural schedule to be reasonable and will, therefore, approve it for the duration of the proceeding.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that the procedural schedule delineated above is APPROVED; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that Mr. Edward J. Comiskey, Mr. William Wynn and Mr. Philip Taub are granted intervention status.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twenty-seventh day of July, 1999.

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Douglas L. Patch  
Chairman

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Susan S. Geiger  
Commissioner

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Nancy Brockway  
Commissioner

Attested by:

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Claire D. DiCicco  
Assistant Secretary